(a) whether Government is introducing co-operative farming as a new initiative covering one or two villages in every district, without compelling farmers, to achieve agriculture growth in long term;

(b) if so, the details thereof worked out so far especially for Andhra Pradesh compared to other States; and

(c) the funds to be earmarked for this purpose for the current five year plan and the role of farmers in this regard especially for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a scheme on following premises (i) Pooling of land of all farmers of a village on a voluntary basis and the land to be managed by the legal entity to be formed by the farmers, (ii) The Government to render maximum assistance for the success of the effort with least interference (iii) The government will ensure to provide guaranteed income to each share holder on the basis of maximum income earned by them during the last five years, and (iv) The main aspect of the scheme is to select 2 villages in 22 districts for integrated Agricultural collectively farming. The farmers are proposed to be given shares in lieu of their surrendering of individual rights over their land to the proposed body/society. The Government will provide seed capital equivalent to the land value contributed by farmers during first five years and banks have to be approached for extending loans to a tune of three to four times against the land guarantee to be offered by the farmers body. The well established practice of Consent Awards will be followed for acquisition of land (Jalayagnam) thereafter works will be followed for arriving at valuation of land, pooled up. The scheme once evolved, is planned to be implemented on an experimental basis in two villages selected in the district, based on the success of the projects. One month time is given for response from villages to be identified through a Gramsabha resolution to reach the Government of Andhra Pradesh before 28.8.2009.

(c) The information sought in the question about state-wise details is not maintained in the Department. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has stated that in Andhra Pradesh, 2,295 Joint Farming Cooperatives are registered with a total membership of 1,92,716 covering a total area of 2,62,776 acres. Out of these, 898 societies were extended finance assistance to a tune of Rs. 796.75 lakhs.

Calling back of fishermen by Coast Guard

3660. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints that the Coast Guard routinely handles our fishermen in a very rough way;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Coast Guard interrupts fishing operations for tri*vial* reasons and generally call back fishermen to the port;

(c) has Government considered a code of conduct for the Coast Guard to ensure that such incidents are not repeated;

(d) what steps Government will take to ensure that the Coast Guard does not hamper fishing operations in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and

(e) the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The Coast Guard has been entrusted to oversee the fishing operations of the Deep-Sea Fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in accordance with conditions laid down in Letter of Permission (LOP) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The members of the Coast Guard are bound by the Coast Guard Discipline Rules, 1986 which also involve treating the fishermen and seamen humanely at sea. The Coast Guard takes proactive measures for fishermen by training them, conducting Community Interaction programmes and rescuing them whenever they are in distress. No specific complaints regarding rough handling of fishermen by the Coast Guard have been received by the Government.

National Livestock Policy

3661. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Livestock Policy has been formulated;

(b) if so, its salient features and follow-up action thereof;

(c) the total indigenous and foreign cow-cattle population, breed-wise and whether indigenous breed is declining over the years, statistics, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the proposed National Livestock Policy are as under:

(i) Enhancing productivity in Livestock and removal of constraints which hinder productivity.

(ii) To double the availability of animal protein from the present level of 10 gm *per capita* per day to 20 gm *per capita* per day within a decade.

(iii) To improve understanding of socio economic problems relating to small holding systems and development of appropriate extension modules for transfer of technology for small farm production.

(iv) Formulation of breeding policy for each Livestock species aiming at qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock products.

(v) To provide quality assurance in the entire food chain to meet international standard concerning quality, hygiene and food safety.

(vi) Preparation of contingency plan concerning natural calamities and disease outbreaks which would also include appropriate insurance packages.